

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 are all the claims pending in the application. The Examiner rejects all under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), specifically: claims 1-2 as being unpatentable over Uehara (JP09-149333) in view of Watanabe (JP403123152A) and further in view of Lee (US 6,707,507); claim 7 as being unpatentable over Watanabe in view of Lee and further in view of Yasuda et al. (JP02001111875A); claims 8-9 as being unpatentable over Uehara in view of Watanabe and Lee and further in view of Nobe et al. (JP2002-290940); claims 10-13, 21 and 23 as being unpatentable over Nakada (JP08-037655) in view of Robinson (GB 2313251A); claims 14-15 as being unpatentable over Nakada in view of Robinson and Lee and further in view of Read (US 5,272,468); and claim 22 as being un patentable over Nakada in view of Robinson, Lee and Nobe. Claims 3-6 and 16-20 are allowed.

The Applicant cancels claims 1-2, 10, and 14-15, and amends dependent claims 7-8, 11, 13, and 21-23 now to depend from allowed independent claims, and amends claim 16 to correct a typographical error. No new matter has been added, and all claims are now allowed or allowable. In view of the above, applicant respectfully requests entry of this amendment, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection, and early allowance of all remaining claims in this application.

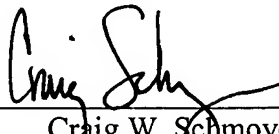
CONCLUSION

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
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